



2005 Weather Crop 18

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Week Ending July 31, 2005

GOOD WEEK FOR FIELDWORK

Farmers throughout the State used the six days suitable for fieldwork last week to make good progress with mid-season fieldwork. The main farming activities were spraying for insects, topping and applying sucker control on tobacco, and cutting hay. With the rapid accumulation of heat units over the past few weeks, the cotton crop continued to improve. With 89 percent of the acreage setting bolls, many of the State’s producers were busy applying growth regulators to slow plant development. Corn made good progress last week with over 80 percent of the acreage in the dough stage and 40 percent in the dent stage. Tobacco farmers made good progress with topping despite problems caused by black shank. The second cutting of alfalfa hay neared completion with over 90 percent of the acreage clipped. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent very short, 20 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent very short, 21 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Last week, temperatures averaged above normal during the beginning of the week, below average during the middle of the week, and near average at week’s end. Rainfall averaged below normal statewide.

CROP PROGRESS: Through July 31, 2005					CONDITION: On July 29, 2005					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2004	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Corn - Dough	82	57	86	75	Corn	2	5	23	54	16
Corn - Dent	40	16	50	33	Cotton	0	0	10	61	29
Cotton Setting Bolls	89	73	89	81	Tobacco	2	4	24	59	11
Soybeans - Blooming	93	87	70	63	Pastures	1	7	35	52	5
Soybeans - Setting Pods	79	66	47	38	Soybeans	2	5	19	52	22
Tobacco Topped	41	30	50	48						
Alfalfa Hay - 2 nd Cutting	92	86	94	96						

CORN: Currently, over four-fifths of the crop has reached the dough stage, while two-fifths of the acreage had begun to dent. Recent high temperatures and dry conditions have had an adverse effect on pollination in some fields. Despite this concern, the crop continues to be rated in mostly good condition.

COTTON: The hot temperatures of the past few weeks have really helped the cotton crop to come on strong. Nearly 90 percent of the crop was setting bolls, slightly ahead of the normal pace. The crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

SOYBEANS: Soybeans continued to develop well ahead of the normal pace, but are beginning to need moisture. Double-cropped soybeans especially need a good general rain. Farmers stepped up their spraying efforts to control foliar feeding insects, such as leaf beetle, grasshoppers, and stink bugs. The crop was rated in mostly good condition.

TOBACCO: The State’s tobacco producers continued topping and applying sucker controls on their fields last week. Farmers in a few areas are expected to begin harvest over the next several weeks.

PASTURES & HAY: As of Sunday, 92 percent of the alfalfa acreage had undergone a second cutting, slightly behind the normal pace. Pastures remained in mostly fair-to-good condition.

County Agent Comments

- “We received good moisture last week, but the hot weather this week zapped it up and caused problems on our late corn that is trying to pollinate.”

- Larry Moorehead, Moore County
- “This has been an unusual growing season so far. Last week, there were slight improvements in pastures and hay fields but increased disease problems in row crops.”

- JW McGuire, Wilson County
- “We continue to have some blossom rot in tomatoes, and hot, dry conditions are starting to slow pasture growth. Corn, soybeans, and tobacco look great for late July.”

- Mitch Ingram, Blount County

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending July 31, 2005				Current Week	Rain	Current Since	Departure From		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	07/31/05	Days	January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	97	66	81	+3	0.07	1	32.81	+0.55	1465	+12
Tri-City_RGNL_A	92	63	78	+3	0.31	2	26.96	+1.59	1015	+64
Brownsville_TN	96	65	80	+0	0.26	2	29.41	-2.87	1537	+277
Chattanooga/Lov	97	71	83	+5	0.73	4	31.19	-1.59	1421	+89
Clarksville_Sew	98	63	80	+3	0.00	0	26.15	-4.30	1439	+170
Cookeville	93	65	79	+3	0.04	1	29.91	-4.71	1132	+362
Covington	95	64	79	-2	0.13	1	30.50	-1.34	1414	-66
Crossville_AP	90	64	77	+4	0.02	2	28.82	-5.38	1015	+132
Dickson_AG	94	63	78	+0	0.02	2	28.84	-3.98	1166	-169
Dover_1W	94	62	79	+3	0.00	0	26.85	-4.94	1297	+180
Dyersburg	97	63	79	-2	0.00	0	27.16	-3.42	1555	-26
Erwin_1W	94	63	77	+5	0.63	2	29.60	-0.88	920	-227
Huntingdon_Wate	95	63	79	+2	0.23	1	29.09	-3.00	1376	+177
Jackson_Exp_Stn	96	66	80	+2	0.66	1	33.70	+1.53	1464	+66
Kingston_AG	93	69	79	+5	0.46	2	33.69	-2.15	1175	+149
Knoxville_AP	95	69	81	+5	0.68	1	25.31	-4.50	1307	+161
Lewisburg	97	64	80	+3	0.69	2	29.63	-4.32	1248	+83
Lexington_TN	95	65	79	+0	0.72	1	30.63	-0.63	1324	+496
Linden	95	64	79	+3	0.56	3	27.91	-6.22	1293	+116
Martin	96	61	79	+1	0.00	0	26.64	-5.66	1396	+53
Mc_Minnville_Tn	93	68	80	+4	0.53	3	25.33	-7.62	1297	-200
Memphis_AG	99	68	82	-2	0.04	1	32.11	+0.82	1575	-186
Milan	97	59	78	+0	0.00	0	30.43	-2.51	1364	+52
Murfreesboro_5N	96	65	80	+2	0.05	1	29.14	-3.17	1339	-145
Nashville_Metro	96	67	82	+3	0.02	1	25.21	-3.82	1507	+113
Newcomb	94	67	79	+6	0.71	1	33.48	+0.03	1074	+251
Oneida	93	66	78	+5	0.19	2	30.13	-3.32	1076	-168
Pikeville	93	69	80	+4	0.49	4	24.75	-8.06	1215	+77
Portland_TN	98	63	80	+3	0.02	1	27.74	-3.89	1325	+191
Pulaski_Water_P	95	67	80	+2	0.22	2	30.22	-3.44	1235	-171
Savannah_6SW	96	62	79	+0	0.33	1	30.49	-4.55	1373	+155
Sparta_TN	94	65	79	+4	0.13	2	29.36	-4.37	1313	+335
Springfield	95	60	79	+3	0.00	0	28.48	-1.99	1276	+125
Springhill	98	64	80	+3	0.88	2	33.69	-0.20	1306	+151
Union_City	93	61	77	-2	0.00	0	30.03	-1.42	1306	-9
Waynesboro_TN	97	66	80	+4	0.65	4	28.35	-7.32	1250	-107

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

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